

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-02 EB-04 AID-05 SIL-01 LAB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 IO-10

/073 W

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R 131405Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4490

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, GAID, US, LT

SUBJ: EASUM VISIT TO LESOTHO: PRIME MINISTER JONOTHANS VIEWS
ON BILATERAL US/LESOTHO RELATIONS, DEVELOPMENT
NEEDS

REF: MASERU 1299

1. DURING TWO HOUR CONVERSATION WITH EASUM(MASERU 1299)
PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN SAID HE APPRECIATED CLOSE AND CORDIAL
RELATIONS BETWEEN LESOTHO AND US AND GAVE ASSURANCES
FROM LESOTHO'S SIDE THAT FRIENDLY RELATIONS WOULD GROW
FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH.

2. WITH REGARD TO DEVELOPMENT NEEDS, PM SAID GOL IS IN
PROCESS OF COMPLETING SECOND FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

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HE WOULD APPRECIATE US AND OTHER DONORS IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC

PROJECTS IN THE PLAN WITH WHICH THEY WOULD ASSIST. LESOTHO SEES AN URGENT NEED FOR PLANNED AND COORDINATED, RATHER THAN AD HOC, ASSISTANCE. PM THEN IDENTIFIED SPECIFIC AREAS IN WHICH HE HOPED US COULD ASSIST: (A) IMPROVEMENT OF MASERU WATER SUPPLY, INADEQUACY OF WHICH HINDERS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS; (B) PROVISION OF HIGH-POWERED EXECUTIVE TO MANAGE LESOTHO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORP., THE PRESENT MANAGER OF WHICH IS SCHEDULED DEPART IN JANUARY, (C) ASSISTANCE IN ORGANIZING AND IMPROVING POLICE MOBILE UNIT (WHICH WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPTEL), (D) LESS URGENTLY, PROVISION OF MANAGER FOR LESOTHO BANK, AND (E) ASSISTANCE IN IMPROVING MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED STADIUM HOTEL.

3. EASUM SAID HE APPRECIATED NEED FOR COORDINATED AND PLANNED DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE BUT POINTED OUT THAT US BUDGET CYCLE IS ANNUAL AND DOES NOT USUALLY COINCIDE WITH A RECEIVING COUNTRY'S PLANNING CYCLE. FURTHERMORE, THERE ARE PERENNIAL PROBLEMS OF SECURING CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, FOR WHICH FUNDS ARE NEVER ADEQUATE TO MEET ALL REQUESTS. HE ASKED AMBASSADOR TO EXPLAIN EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON EACH SPECIFIC PROPOSALS.

4. AMBASSADOR INDICATED US WOULD BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING FIVE-YEAR PLAN WITH OTHER DONORS ONCE IT COMPLETED. SAID MASERU WATER PROBLEM IS NEW TO US. WE WOULD CONSULT WITH WASHINGTON ON QUESTION OF MANAGER FOR LNDC, ESPECIALLY AS PM STATED UNDP NO LONGER ABLE TO FINANCE POSITION. STADIUM HOTEL SEEMED TO BE SHORT-TERM MANAGEMENT PROBLEM; WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO CONTACT INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE SERVICE CORPS TO SEE IF THEY COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE, BUT ARE AWAITING EXPOSITION OF THE PROBLEM FROM THE RESPONSIBLE MINISTER BEFORE PROCEEDING.

5. EASUM SAID HE APPRECIATED PRIVILEGE OF PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCE WITH LESOTHO'S PROBLEMS, WHICH WOULD PUT HIM IN POSITION GIVE PERSONAL ATTENTION TO PROPOSALS WHICH REACH HIM IN WASHINGTON.

6. IN SEPARATE HOUR-LONG MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM, NOVEMBER 13 MINISTER OF FINANCE SEKHONYANA REVIEWED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LESOTHO'S PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS AND PROGRAMS. MINISTER NOTED THAT 120,000 MINERS WERE EMPLOYED IN SOUTH AFRICA. MINES IN SOUTH AFRICA HAVE UNDERTAKEN PROGRAMS TO TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON MIGRANT WORKERS THROUGH MECHANIZING AND INCREASING WAGES TO ATTRACT SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS; THEREFORE PROSPECTS FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR LESOTHO'S LABOR FORCE WERE NOT BRIGHT. LESOTHO'S DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY DURING NEXT FIVE-YEAR PLAN MUST THEREFORE

CONCENTRATE ON EMPLOYMENT CREATION. GREATER EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO USE LABOR-INTENSIVE TECHNOLOGY AND TO SELECT INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS WITH A MULTIPLIER EFFECT.

7. SEKHONYANA SAID HE WAS PLEASED WITH US AID PROGRAMS, PARTICULARLY THE THABA BOSIU AND LAND AND WATER RESOURCE PROJECTS. IBRD AND GOL WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE CONCEPT OF THE THABA BOSIU PROJECT EXPANDED WITHIN LESOTHO. MINISTER STRESSED GOL HOPE THAT USG WOULD BE FORTHCOMING WHEN PROPOSALS ARE SUBMITTED TO EXPAND THE PROJECT.
BOLEN

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